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Director

County of Los Angeles DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES

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April 6, 2004

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Board of Supervisors
GLORIA MOLINA
First District
YVONNE BRATHWAITE BURKE
Second District
ZEV YAROSLAVSKY
Third District
DON KNABE
Fourth District
MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH
Fifth District

Dear Supervisors:

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF TWO NEW FOSTER FAMILY AGENCIES TO PROVIDE FOSTER FAMILY AGENCY FOSTER CARE SERVICES (ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS) (3 VOTES)

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

1. Delegate authority to the Director of the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), or his designee, to execute the previously approved Foster Family Agency Foster Care (FFA-FC) Form Agreement with two (2) additional Foster Family Agencies (FFAs) as identified in Attachment A, for provision of FFA-FC services, effective upon date of execution through August 31, 2004. The estimated FY 2003-04 cost for all FFA placement resources is \$156,573,897. These costs are financed using 58.38% State and federal funding (\$91,407,841) and 41.62% net County cost (\$65,166,056). These are Assistance costs and are funded in the FY 2003-04 Adopted Budget in the DCFS Assistance Budget and Provisional Financing Uses.
2. Delegate authority to the Director of DCFS, or his designee, to exercise two one-year extension options (September 1, 2004 through August 31, 2005 and September 1, 2005 through August 31, 2006) after Chief Administrative Office (CAO) approval; and instruct the Director to notify your Board and the CAO in writing within ten workdays of executing the amendments.
3. Delegate authority to the Director of DCFS, or his designee, to extend the Form Agreements with the agencies listed on Attachment A for up to six (6) months (September 1, 2006 through February 28, 2007), if necessary, to complete the negotiation or solicitation of a new contract after County Counsel and CAO approval; and instruct the Director of DCFS to notify your Board and the CAO in writing within ten workdays of executing the extensions.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

The FFA-FC Form Agreement was previously approved and adopted by your Board on August 12, 2003. That Board letter indicated DCFS would return to the Board to request approval of new FFAs, in the event agreements with additional FFAs are necessary. (Please see Attachment B, Board letter dated August 12, 2003.) DCFS has identified two (2) FFAs that can provide critically needed homes for two target populations. One of the FFAs has homes for children who are developmentally delayed or medically fragile; and the other FFA has homes for children ages 0-17 with emotional, physical and/or behavioral challenges.

The recommended actions are necessary in order to increase and enhance DCFS' ability to accommodate children in these target groups. Approval of the recommended actions will ensure needed placement options are available.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

The recommended actions are consistent with the principles of the Countywide Strategic Plan Goal No. 5 (Children and Families Well-Being). The recommended actions will enable DCFS to work collaboratively with FFAs to provide a safe, protective, and nurturing environment for children under its supervision and to ensure the ongoing commitment to the safety and welfare of children in foster care.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

The estimated FY 2003-2004 cost of all placements with FFAs is \$156,573,897, which will be financed using approximately \$91,407,841 (58.38%) federal/State revenue and \$65,166,056 (41.62%) net County cost (NCC). The funding for these costs is included in the FY 2003-04 Adopted Budget in the DCFS Assistance Budget and Provisional Financing Uses.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

DCFS currently contracts with 71 FFAs. Some of these agencies have up to 250 certified foster homes. FFA placements are utilized for approximately 7,500 children under the supervision of DCFS. These foster children are in placements that provide nurturing familial environments and that meet their physical, emotional, social, educational, spiritual, and cultural needs.

In August 2003, your Board adopted the current FFA-FC Form Agreement. This Agreement allowed DCFS to establish program standards for FFAs providing out-of-home care to DCFS placed children. The FFA-FC Form Agreement was approved for use during the term of September 1, 2003 through August 31, 2004, with two (2) optional one (1) year renewal periods, and a six (6) month extension, if necessary, to complete the negotiation or solicitation of a new contract; and DCFS was delegated authority to exercise the extension options after County Counsel and CAO approval.

The recommended actions align the Agreement terms for the two additional agencies with the terms of the Agreements approved in August. However, the agreement with one of the two FFAs may be slightly delayed, because the agency has not yet submitted a copy of their California Department of Social Services (CDSS) rate letter, which is a required document. DCFS is requesting your Board's pre-approval for this FFA and will not execute an agreement with the FFA until the FFA has submitted the required document and is in full compliance.

DCFS is using the Form Agreement that was previously approved by County Counsel as to form. County Counsel and the CAO have reviewed this Board letter.

CONTRACTING PROCESS

As noted in the Board letter dated August 12, 2003 (Attachment B), the contract opportunity for the Form Agreement was not listed on the County's Office of Small Business Web Site, as DCFS utilized procurement by negotiation to develop agreements with FFA providers who were under contract with the County. The CDSS Management and Office Procedures Manual, Section 23-650, allows contracts to be negotiated without formal advertising when rates established by the State are to be used for payments and CDSS has notified the counties that formal advertising is not necessary for a particular program. DCFS received such authorization from CDSS, in a letter dated March 29, 2001. Further, in the Board letter dated August 12, 2003, DCFS indicated that the FFA-FC Form Agreement would also be made available on an ongoing basis to other FFAs who are able and willing to provide FFA services.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES

Approval of these additional FFAs will provide essential foster care services to a group of children needing specialized service.

CONCLUSION

Upon approval of this request, instruct the Executive Office/Clerk of the Board to send an adopted copy of this Board Letter to:

1. Department of Children and Family Services
Contracts Administration
Attention: Walter Chan, Manager
425 Shatto Place, Room 205
Los Angeles, CA 90020
2. Office of the County Counsel
Advice and Litigation Division
Attention: Rose Belda, Principal Deputy County Counsel
201 Centre Plaza Drive
Monterey Park, CA 91754
3. Department of Children and Family Services
Out of Home Care Programs
Attention: Ed Sosa, Division Chief
2525 Corporate Place, First Floor
Monterey Park, CA 91754

Respectfully submitted,

David Sanders, Ph.D.
Director

DS:ARC
WC:SN:dm
O:DM/Foster Family Agency/BI to Add New FFAs (3/24/04)

Attachments (2)

c: Chief Administrative Officer
Auditor-Controller

NEW PROVIDERS OF FFA-FC SERVICES

1. Developmental Dynamics Family Services Inc.
Attention: Wendy Carroll
5100 Goldleaf Circle, #200
Los Angeles, CA 90056

2. The Village Family Services
Attention: Hugo Villa, M.A.
5437 Laurel Canyon Blvd., Suite 210
North Hollywood, CA 91607

ATTACHMENT B

**AUGUST 12, 2003 ADOPTED BOARD LETTER
REQUEST TO APPROVE THE FOSTER FAMILY AGENCY FOSTER CARE
(FFA-FC) FORM AGREEMENT**